**Timetable of Legislation – Great Britain -> Industrial Revolution**

**1799/1800 Combination Acts (Pitt the younger) –prohibited Trade Unions**

**1802** Health and Morals of Apprentices Act **(Robert Peel)**

**young children btw 9 and 13- 8 hr days 14 to 18 12 hr days--some instruction *Progressive***

**1812 Luddites begin to rebel ->*Reactionary non-govt group***

**1819- Cotton Mills Act**

The Act required that no child under the age of nine was to be employed in cotton mills, with a maximum day of 16 hours for all those under 16. But once again the means of enforcing such legislation remained a serious problem.

**1819 Peterloo Massacre (others had taken place too)**

**1819 Six Acts passed- broad powers for government – Reactionary (limited meetings repealed 1824)**

**The Training Prevention Act** prohibited civilian bodies from training in the use of weapons. This piece of legislation hardly seems out of place in the modern world, let alone in the period of disaffection of the 18-teens. It also limited the activities of the *agents provocateurs*  
**The Seizure of Arms Act,** linked to the the Training Prevention Act, gave JPs and magistrates the right to search private houses for weapons, to seize them and their possessors. This Act also limited the activities of the *agents provocateurs*  
**The Seditious Meetings Act** restricted to parish level all public meetings that were called to discuss 'any public grievance or any matter on Church and State'. Organisers had to proved local magistrates with due notice of the time and place of the meeting. The magistrates were empowered to change the date and/or time of the meeting at will, to prevent any attempt to organise insurrection. This was, perhaps, the most serious infringement of public liberty but it was repealed in 1824.  
**The Blasphemous and Seditious Libels Act** fixed the penalties for these activities to fourteen years' transportation. Magistrates were empowered to seek, seize and confiscate all libellous materials in the possession of the accused. This piece of legislation was not especially effective because it was never enforced rigorously, and also because of [Fox](http://www.historyhome.co.uk/people/cjfox.htm)'s 1792 [Libel Act](http://www.historyhome.co.uk/c-eight/france/pitfrwar.htm#libel). Juries were reluctant to convict people on flimsy evidence.  
**The Misdemeanours Act** provided for speedier legal machinery so that people could be brought to trial faster. This reduced the likelihood of bail being obtained by the accused; it also allowed for quicker convictions. Perhaps this was no bad thing, on either count.  
**The Newspaper and Stamp Duties Act** greatly increased the taxes on printed matter, including newspapers, periodicals and pamphlets. Publishers and printers had to provide securities for their 'good behaviour' . Any publication appearing at least once a month, and costing less than 6d. was subject to a tax of 4d. The Act restricted the freedom of the legitimate press. Radical publications simply went 'underground'.

**1824 Combination Acts repealed- Liberal**

**1832 Great Reform Act- Liberal (Lord Grey)**

### The first Reform Act

The Representation of the People Act 1832, known as the first Reform Act or Great Reform Act:

* disenfranchised 56 boroughs in England and Wales and reduced another 31 to only one MP
* created 67 new constituencies
* broadened the franchise's property qualification in the counties, to include small landowners, tenant farmers, and shopkeepers
* created a uniform franchise in the boroughs, giving the vote to all householders who paid a yearly rental of £10 or more and some lodgers

**1833 Factory Act** - broadened in textile areas (liberal) limits still primarily applicable children.

The Factory Act of 1833 was a major accomplishment for the proper rights of child workers. With this act, children who worked in factories would now be given more safe regulations. Some of the new laws that would focus on the youth in the factories were  
  
-No child workers under the age of nine  
-Children are not to work at night  
-Two hours schooling each day  
-Four Factory inspectors are to be placed to make sure the laws are in action.

**1834 Poor Laws- (*liberal?)*** In 1834 a new Poor Law was introduced. Some people welcomed it because they believed it would:

* reduce the cost of looking after the poor
* take beggars off the streets
* encourage poor people to work hard to support themselves

The new Poor Law ensured that the poor were housed in workhouses, clothed and fed. Children who entered the workhouse would receive some schooling. In return for this care, all workhouse paupers would have to work for several hours each day.

**1838 Charter Movement see National Petition 1839 (Radical)**

**Progressive- Universal suffrage, Annual Parliaments, paid parliamentarians, secret ballot, parliament no property qualifications**

**1842 Mine Act- no women, no child under 10,**

**1844 Factory Act- included women, more protection on children, some oversight (record keeping etc..)**

The Act reduced the hours of work for children between eight and thirteen to six and a half a day, either in the morning or afternoon, no child being allowed to work in both on the same day, except on alternate days, and then only for ten hours. Young persons and women (now included for the first time) were to have the same hours, i.e. not more than twelve for the first five days of the week (with one and a half out for meals), and nine on Saturday.

**1846 Corn Laws repealed (Ricardo) (19th Century Economic liberalism)**

**1847 10 hour workday women and children**

**1850 Factor Act limited workday to Saturday 2 pm- children and women further protections could only work from 6 to 6 in the summer**

**1850 Coal Mines Inspection Act- oversight regulation**